

1. (ORIGINAL) A prophylactic/therapeutic agent for neurodegenerative disease or diabetes, comprising a compound or its salt inhibiting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

2. (ORIGINAL) A prophylactic/therapeutic agent for neurodegenerative disease or diabetes, comprising a compound or its salt inhibiting the expression of a gene for a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

3. (ORIGINAL) An antisense polynucleotide comprising the entire or part of a base sequence complementary or substantially complementary to a base sequence of a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or a partial peptide thereof.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pharmaceutical comprising the antisense polynucleotide according to claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

5. (ORIGINAL) The pharmaceutical according to claim 4, which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for neurodegenerative disease or diabetes.

6. (ORIGINAL) An antibody to a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pharmaceutical comprising the antibody according to claim 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

8. (ORIGINAL) The pharmaceutical according to claim 7, which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for neurodegenerative disease or diabetes.

9. (ORIGINAL) A diagnostic agent comprising the antibody according to claim 6.

10. (ORIGINAL) The diagnostic agent according to claim 9, which is a diagnostic agent for neurodegenerative disease or diabetes.

11. (ORIGINAL) A diagnostic agent for neurodegenerative disease or diabetes, comprising a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or its partial peptide.

12. (ORIGINAL) A method of screening a compound or its salt inhibiting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, which comprises using the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

13. (ORIGINAL) A kit for screening a compound or its salt inhibiting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, comprising the protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (ORIGINAL) A method of screening a compound or its salt inhibiting the expression of a gene for a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises using a polynucleotide encoding the protein or its partial peptide.

16. (ORIGINAL) A kit for screening a compound or its salt inhibiting the expression of a gene for a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the

amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the protein or its partial peptide.

17. – 20. (CANCELED)

21. (ORIGINAL) A method of preventing/treating neurodegenerative disease or diabetes, which comprises inhibiting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or its partial peptide, or inhibiting the expression of a gene for the protein.

22. (CANCELED)

23. (ORIGINAL) A prophylactic/therapeutic agent for a cancer or rheumatic disease, comprising a compound or its salt promoting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

24. (ORIGINAL) A prophylactic/therapeutic agent for a cancer or rheumatic disease, comprising a compound or its salt promoting the expression of a gene for a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pharmaceutical comprising a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof , and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

26. (ORIGINAL) The pharmaceutical according to claim 25, which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for a cancer or rheumatic disease.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pharmaceutical comprising a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the

amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or its partial peptide, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

28. (ORIGINAL) The pharmaceutical according to claim 27, which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for a cancer or rheumatic disease.

29. (ORIGINAL) A diagnostic agent for cancer or rheumatic disease, comprising a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or its partial peptide.

30. (ORIGINAL) A method of screening a compound or its salt promoting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, which comprises using the protein, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

31. (ORIGINAL) A kit for screening a compound or its salt promoting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, comprising the protein, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

32. (CANCELED)

33. (ORIGINAL) A method of screening a compound or its salt promoting the expression of a gene for a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises using a polynucleotide encoding the protein or its partial peptide.

34. (ORIGINAL) A kit for screening a compound or its salt promoting the expression of a gene for a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the protein or its partial peptide.

35. – 38. (CANCELED)

39. (ORIGINAL) A method of preventing/treating a cancer or rheumatic disease, which comprises promoting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 or its partial peptide, or promoting the expression of a gene for the protein.

40. (CANCELED)

41. (NEW) A method of treating or preventing neurodegenerative disease or diabetes, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound or its salt inhibiting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

42. (NEW) A method of treating or preventing neurodegenerative disease or diabetes, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound or its salt inhibiting the expression of a gene for a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

43. (NEW) A method of treating or preventing neurodegenerative disease or diabetes, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of an antisense polynucleotide comprising the entire or part of a base sequence complementary or substantially complementary to a base sequence of a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or a partial peptide thereof.

44. (NEW) A method of diagnosing neurodegenerative disease or diabetes, which comprises using a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the

same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or its partial peptide.

\_\_\_\_ 45. (NEW) A method of treating or preventing a cancer or rheumatic disease, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound or its salt promoting the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

\_\_\_\_ 46. (NEW) A method of treating or preventing a cancer or rheumatic disease, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound or its salt promoting the expression of a gene for a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

\_\_\_\_ 47. (NEW) A method of diagnosing a cancer or rheumatic disease, which comprises using a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or its partial peptide.